



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 346

February Session, 2000

An Act Expanding Enrolment In The HUSKY Plan.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subdivision (22) of section 17b-290 of the general statutes
2 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

3 (22) "Qualified entity" means any entity, [(A)] including, but not
4 limited to, a school-based health center, that is eligible for payments
5 under a state plan approved under Medicaid and [which] that
6 provides medical services under the HUSKY Plan, Part A or is
7 authorized to determine eligibility of: [(i)] (A) A child to participate in
8 a Head Start program under the Head Start Act; [(ii)] (B) a child to
9 receive child care services for which financial assistance is provided
10 under the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990; or
11 [(iii)] (C) a child to receive assistance under WIC. [; and (B) that is
12 determined by the commissioner to be capable of making the
13 determinations specified in subparagraph (A) of this subdivision.] The
14 commissioner shall provide qualified entities with such forms as are
15 necessary for an application to be made on behalf of a child under the
16 HUSKY Plan, Part A and information on how to assist parents,
17 guardians and other persons in completing and filing such forms.

18 Sec. 2. Subsection (g) of section 17b-292 of the general statutes is
19 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

20 (g) The commissioner shall implement presumptive eligibility for
21 children applying for Medicaid. Such presumptive eligibility
22 determinations shall be in accordance with applicable federal law and
23 regulations. The commissioner shall adopt regulations, in accordance
24 with chapter 54, to establish standards and procedures for the
25 designation of organizations, including, but not limited to, school-
26 based health centers, as qualified entities to grant presumptive
27 eligibility. In establishing such regulations, the commissioner shall
28 ensure the representation of state-wide and local organizations that
29 provide services to children of all ages in each region of the state.

30 Sec. 3. Subsection (h) of section 17b-292 of the general statutes is
31 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

32 (h) The commissioner shall enter into a contract with an entity to be
33 a single point of entry servicer for applicants and enrollees under the
34 HUSKY Plan, Part A and Part B. The servicer shall jointly market both
35 Part A and Part B together as the HUSKY Plan. Such servicer shall
36 develop and implement public information and outreach activities
37 with community programs. Such servicer shall electronically transmit
38 data with respect to enrolment and disenrolment in the HUSKY Plan,
39 Part B to the commissioner who may transmit such data to the
40 Children's Health Council.

41 Sec. 4. Subsection (k) of section 17b-292 of the general statutes is
42 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

43 (k) Not more than twelve months after the determination of
44 eligibility for benefits under the HUSKY Plan, Part A and Part B and
45 annually thereafter, the commissioner or the servicer, as the case may
46 be, shall determine if the child continues to be eligible for the plan. The
47 commissioner or the servicer shall mail [a] an application form to each
48 participant in the plan for the purposes of obtaining information to
49 make a determination on eligibility. To the extent permitted by federal
50 law, in determining eligibility for benefits under the HUSKY Plan, Part
51 A and Part B with respect to family income, the commissioner or the

52 servicer shall rely upon information provided in such form by the
53 participant unless the commissioner or the servicer has reason to
54 believe that such information is inaccurate or incomplete. To the extent
55 permitted by federal law, if the commissioner determines that a child
56 is no longer eligible for benefits under the HUSKY Plan, Part A, such
57 child shall remain eligible for such benefits until the servicer
58 determines eligibility for benefits under the HUSKY Plan, Part B. The
59 determination of eligibility shall be coordinated with health plan open
60 enrolment periods. The application form for determination of
61 eligibility shall be consistent with the form for enrolment in the
62 HUSKY Plan, but in no event shall a participant be requested to
63 provide information that duplicates information requested in an
64 application form for the temporary family assistance program or the
65 food stamp program.

66 Sec. 5. Section 17b-297 of the general statutes is repealed and the
67 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

68 (a) The commissioner, in consultation with the Children's Health
69 Council, the Medicaid Managed Care Council and Infoline of
70 Connecticut, shall develop mechanisms for outreach for the HUSKY
71 Plan, Part A and Part B, including, but not limited to, development of
72 mail-in applications and appropriate outreach materials through the
73 Department of Revenue Services, the Labor Department, the
74 Department of Social Services, the Department of Public Health, the
75 Department of Children and Families and the Office of Protection and
76 Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities.

77 (b) The commissioner shall include in such outreach efforts
78 information on the Medicaid program for the purpose of maximizing
79 enrolment of eligible children and the use of federal funds.

80 (c) The commissioner shall, within available appropriations,
81 contract with qualified entities authorized to grant presumptive
82 eligibility, severe need schools and community-based organizations for
83 purposes of public education, outreach and recruitment of eligible

84 children, including the distribution of applications and information
85 regarding enrolment in the HUSKY Plan, Part A and Part B. In
86 awarding such contracts, the commissioner shall consider the
87 marketing, outreach and recruitment efforts of organizations. The
88 commissioner shall, within available appropriations, contract with
89 community-based organizations to assist in completing applications
90 for enrolment in the HUSKY Plan, Part A and Part B. For the purposes
91 of this subsection, (1) "community-based organizations" shall include,
92 but not be limited to, day care centers, schools, school-based health
93 clinics, community-based diagnostic and treatment centers and
94 hospitals, and (2) "severe need school" means a school in which forty
95 per cent or more of the lunches served are served to students who are
96 eligible for free or reduced price lunches.

97 (d) All outreach materials shall be approved by the commissioner
98 pursuant to Subtitle J of Public Law 105-33.

99 (e) Not later than January 1, 1999, and annually thereafter, the
100 commissioner shall submit a report to the Governor and the General
101 Assembly on the implementation of and the results of the community-
102 based outreach program specified in subsections (a) to (c), inclusive, of
103 this section.

104 Sec. 6. Section 10-215 of the general statutes is repealed and the
105 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

106 Any local or regional board of education may establish and operate
107 a school lunch program for public school children, may operate lunch
108 services for its employees, may establish and operate a school
109 breakfast program, as provided under federal laws governing said
110 programs, or may establish and operate such other child feeding
111 programs as it deems necessary. Charges for such lunches, breakfasts
112 or other such feeding may be fixed by such [boards] board and shall
113 not exceed the cost of food, wages and other expenses directly incurred
114 in providing such services. When such services are offered, a board
115 shall provide free lunches, breakfasts or other such feeding to children

116 whose economic needs require such action under the standards
 117 promulgated by said federal laws. Any application for free lunches,
 118 breakfasts or other such feeding programs shall, within available
 119 appropriations, contain a box in which the applicant may place a check
 120 mark to indicate that such applicant wishes to obtain information
 121 concerning the HUSKY Plan, Part A and Part B. Such board is
 122 authorized to purchase equipment and supplies that are necessary, to
 123 employ the necessary personnel, to utilize the services of volunteers
 124 and to receive and expend any funds and receive and use any
 125 equipment and supplies which may become available to carry out the
 126 provisions of this section. Any town board of education may vote to
 127 designate any volunteer organization within the town to provide a
 128 school lunch program, school breakfast program or other child feeding
 129 program in accordance with the provisions of this section.

130 Sec. 7. This act shall take effect July 1, 2000, except that section 2
 131 shall take effect January 1, 2001.

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

In section 1, in the second and third lines of subdivision (22), the word "that" was substituted for "which" for grammatical accuracy.

HS	Committee Vote:	Yea	18	Nay	0	JFS	C/R	APP
APP	Committee Vote:	Yea	50	Nay	0	JFS-LCO		
PH	Committee Vote:	Yea	24	Nay	0	JF		